

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

SEAT BELT AWARENESS MONTH

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2006, there were 236,369 reported motor vehicle collisions on North Carolina's highways that resulted in 1,556 fatalities and 120,070 persons injured according to the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles; and

WHEREAS, unbelted occupants still accounted for 617 or 39.6% of all motor vehicle-related fatalities (443 drivers and 182 passengers) in 2006 according to the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's seat belt use rate is currently at 88.8% according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that a person who is unrestrained is ten times more likely to suffer a severe injury and twenty times more likely to suffer a fatal injury when compared with people who are belted; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina motorists who fail to wear their seat belts have continued to drive up the cost of the crash tax (crash cost per person) to over \$1,100 per person in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, now all occupants of a motor vehicle including passengers in the back seat are required by law to buckle up; and

WHEREAS, the month of May marks the 15th anniversary of "Click It or Ticket" in North Carolina and a time to remind all citizens of the importance of wearing their seat belts no matter where they sit in a vehicle;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2008, as **"SEAT BELT AWARENESS MONTH"** in North Carolina, and I urge all drivers and passengers to join in this effort to keep our highways safe.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Michael F. Easley in dark ink.
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-eighth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.